

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 07703 150345Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00  
INR-10 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 CTME-00 SNM-05 TRSE-00  
ICA-11 NSC-05 OES-07 OMB-01 AID-05 SP-02 /092 W  
-----026903 160240Z /62

R 141213Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0439  
INFO USMISSION GENEVA  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
AMEMBASSY KABUL  
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU  
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
USLO PEKING  
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 07703

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1  
TAGS: SNAR, AF, UR, US  
SUBJECT: SOVIET CHARGES ON AFGHAN NARCOTICS PROBLEM  
REF: STATE 82907 (NOTAL)

1. IT APPEARS TO US THAT SOVIET CHARGE VASEV'S STATEMENTS  
REPORTED REFTEL DO NOT BODE WELL FOR SOVIET COOPERATION  
WITH THE U.S. ON THE AFGHAN NARCOTICS PROBLEM. TO WIT:

-- VASEV'S CHARGES ON CHINA ECHO OLD SOVIET CHARGES THAT  
HAVE BEEN PERIODICALLY SURFACING IN THE SOVIET PRESS FOR  
MANY YEARS, AND, TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, HAVE NEVER BEEN BACKED  
UP BY ACTUAL EVIDENCE. THEY REMIND US OF STANDARD SOVIET  
PROPAGANDA ON CHINA WHICH SPEWS OUT A GREAT NUMBER OF  
CHARGES ABOUT NEFARIOUS CHINESE ACTIVITIES AROUND THE  
WORLD, INCLUDING IN THE NARCOTICS AREA. WE ARE POUCHING  
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TO EUR/SOV/MULTI THE MOST RECENT EXAMPLE OF SOVIET ALLE-  
GATIONS ABOUT PRC DRUG TRAFFICKING PRINTED IN FEB. 16  
IZVESTIYA. ARTICLE USES A JAPANESE NEWSPAPER ACCOUNT TO  
"DOCUMENT" POST 1949 CHINESE COMMUNIST EFFORTS TO EXPORT  
OPIUM ABROAD, INCLUDING TO THE U.S. ARTICLE ALLEGES THAT  
BEGINNING IN THE EARLY 1970'S THE PRC USED CHINESE MIDDLE-  
MEN IN THE U.S. AND PRC DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES AT THE UN

TO SUPPLY A MAJOR PORTION OF THE ILLICIT OPIUM SHIPPED  
TO THE U.S.

-- IT IS DIFFICULT TO ACCEPT VASEV'S ASSERTION THAT HE HAD  
NO KNOWLEDGE ABOUT U.S. CONCERN RE OPIUM POPPIES GROWING  
ON SOVIET AID PROJECTS IN NEPAL WHEN U.S. CONCERN WAS  
SPECIFICALLY EXPRESSED TO SOVIET EMBASSY OFFICER IVANOV  
LAST FALL BY NEA/INS COUNTRY DIRECTOR LANDE.

-- VASEV'S ALLEGATIONS ABOUT EMBASSY MOSCOW'S EFFORTS "TO  
PROTECT" THREE AMERICANS ARRESTED BY THE SOVIETS IS ALSO  
UNFOUNDED. THE EMBASSY HAS NEVER PROTESTED THE TRIAL OR  
THE SENTENCE METED OUT TO THE THREE AND HAS REPEATEDLY  
TURNED DOWN THE PRISONERS' PLEAS THAT THE EMBASSY PETITION  
FOR AMNESTY OR CLEMENCY ON THEIR BEHALF.

2. VASEV'S REMARKS ABOUT BILATERAL SOVIET-AFGHAN RELATIONS  
MAY REFLECT A SOVIET SUSPICION THAT U.S. IS ATTEMPTING TO  
USE NARCOTICS ISSUE TO IRRITATE THESE RELATIONS. IN  
GENERAL, HOWEVER, WE INTERPRET HIS RESPONSE TO OUR  
REQUEST AS A DELIBERATE EFFORT TO OBFUSCATE A PROBLEM WHICH  
HE WAS UNWILLING OR UNABLE TO DISCUSS DIRECTLY. HIS  
RESPONSE DOES NOT AUGUR WELL FOR POSSIBILITY OF JOINT  
SOVIET-U.S. COOPERATION ON THE AFGHAN NARCOTICS PROBLEM.

3. VASEV'S RESPONSE, WHILE IT MAY NOT BE THE FINAL SOVIET  
POSITION, REINFORCES OUR VIEW THAT SOVIET SENSITIVITIES  
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OVER POSSIBLE EFFECT OF THIS ISSUE ON SOVIET-AFGHAN  
RELATIONS INDICATES THAT THE MAJOR U.S. EMPHASIS SHOULD  
BE THROUGH MULTILATERAL CHANNELS, SUCH AS THE UN NARCOTICS  
FORUM IN GENEVA. TOON

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** NARCOTICS, DRUG ABUSE, AGREEMENTS, POLLUTION, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, METALLURGY, SCIENTIFIC VISITS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 14 apr 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978MOSCOW07703  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** X1  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780164-0445, D780163-0250  
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**Image Path:**  
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**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
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**Message ID:** 5c9d01b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 78 STATE 82907, 78 MOSCOW 5163  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 13 may 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2963158  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SOVIET CHARGES ON AFGHAN NARCOTICS PROBLEM  
**TAGS:** SNAR, SENV, AF, UR, US  
**To:** STATE EPA  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/5c9d01b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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